February 4, 1970

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
The National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

One of the long-unanswered requests for information I have made of you is for a list of the documents relating to the late David W. Ferrie of New Orleans. First you denied your agency had ever issued such a list. I corrected this, reminding you of the occasion on which it was given me, listing both the available and the withheld pages. I asked that whether or not you had prepared such a list, I be given this information. It should have required no unusual effort of your staff.

On many occasions you have told me you will make files available to me in the search rooms. Because it is important to my work to know what documents there are on Ferrie, I asked for the files on him this past Friday. There are two. And they are gutted, making this research impossible.

As one example, there is what is labelled as a file of the papers relating to him in CD75. In it was a single report of two pages. This is neither all of the available papers relating to him from CD75 nor a record of all the papers in this single file relating to him. So, whether or not so intended, it amounts to a deception to tell me that the information I seek is available to me in the search rooms.

I therefore renew my request for a list of all the documents relating to Ferrie, with the reason for the withholding of each one that is withheld. I do hope this can be provided with less than what has become the customary inordinate delay that in itself is an interference with research and, I believe, is contrary to at least the intent of the law. Wihtout this any request I make of the Justice Department may be compromised.

On Friday I was also given two prints of the picture of CE399 identified as made for Dr. John Nichols. This is hardly all I asked for with respect to CE399. I hope you will, please, comply with the rest of the request promptly, including a copy of his order, of this negative, and the special picture I asked you to take for me in duplication of the one earlier made for me and now allegedly lost.

If you can provide me with an explanation of why those requests that do get responded to require so much more time than they did when there was much active research in this file, I'd appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg